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NL INDUSTRIES/TARACORP SUPERFUND SITE GROUP
Leed Environmental, Inc.
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January 8, 2004

First Class Mail

Mr. Brad Bradley
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



258795

RE: NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site; Granite City, Illinois
Consent Decree
Progress Report 56 (December 2003)

Dear Mr. Bradley:

As required by the Consent Decree for the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site (the "site"), two copies of this letter are submitted on behalf of the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site Group ("Group") to provide the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") with a progress report for operation and maintenance activities that were performed during December 2003.

1. Actions Taken During Previous Month to Comply with the Consent Decree:

- On December 2, 2003, the Group's project coordinator issued a progress report to EPA.
- On December 12, 2003, the Group's project coordinator issued a memorandum to advise EPA's project manager that ENTACT's demolition subcontractor had been delayed on another project and, as a result, the start date for ENTACT's building demolition work at the former BV&G Trucking property at the site had been temporarily delayed.
- On December 22, 2003, the Group's project coordinator received a letter from EPA's Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP") project manager which provided conditional approval of the SEP Work Plan and authorized SEP work to commence immediately. EPA's letter, which also provided EPA's draft comments on the SEP Work Plan, was provided to the Madison County Community Development Agency. Efforts were initiated to review the comments and prepare for a conference call with EPA to discuss the draft comments.

2. **Summary of Data and/or Results of Sampling and Tests Received:**

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

3. **Work Plans, Plans, and Other Deliverables Completed and Submitted to EPA During the Previous Month:**

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

4. **Actions, Data Collection, and Implementation of Work Plans and Other Information Related to the Progress of Construction which are Scheduled to be Performed During the Next Six-Week Period:**

- As previously reported, the Group has authorized ENTACT to perform maintenance activities at the site to address the items outlined in ENTACT's June 24, 2003 inspection report. The city, however, has not yet issued demolition permits for ENTACT to perform the work. ENTACT anticipates that the permits will soon be issued. After the permits have been issued, ENTACT will mobilize to the site to demolish the buildings on the former BV&G Trucking property and to repair the security fence.
- The Group anticipates that a conference call will be conducted with EPA to discuss EPA's draft comments on the SEP Work Plan.

5. **Problems Encountered, Anticipated Problems, Actual or Anticipated Delays, and Efforts Developed or Implemented to Mitigate Delays:**

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

6. **Modifications to Work Plans or Schedules Proposed to EPA or Approved by EPA:**

- As noted above, the city has not yet issued demolition permits for ENTACT to demolish the buildings on the former BV&G Trucking property. The Group's project coordinator will advise EPA's project manager regarding ENTACT's revised schedule for performing the work at the site.

7. **Community Relations Activities During Previous Month or to be Undertaken During Next Six-Week Period:**

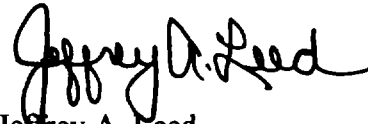
- Not applicable for this reporting period.

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Should you or your staff have questions or comments regarding this progress report, please contact this office at (610) 670-7310.

Very truly yours,

LEED ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Jeffrey A. Leed
Project Coordinator

cc: Ms. Sandra Bron - Illinois EPA (by first class mail)
Mr. Rich Wood - ENTACT, Inc. (by first class mail)
Technical Committee, NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site Group
(by first class mail)